instances have been brought to light of fatal effects ensuing from this plant being incautiously eaten by children. It is therefore necessary that the species should be suitably designated, that a source of so much danger may be known and avoided.

The Cicuta maculata, to which I have applied the name of *American Hemlock*, not having heard any common appellation except that of *Snakeweed*, inhabits wet meadows and banks, from the northern to the southern limits of the United States, flowering in July and August. It is so frequently cut with hay, among which it often grows in large quantities, that we might expect to see its deleterious properties operating on domestic cattle, were it not that their bodies are probably less susceptible of its poison than ours. The European Cicuta, above mentioned, is highly noxious to man, and to some domestic animals, yet goats and sheep eat it with impunity.

The genus *Cicuta* differs from other genera of umbellate plants in having *no general involucre*, a short, partial involucre, and a *fruit* which is nearly *orbicular*, *compressed* and *furrowed*.*

* This description of the fruit agrees with the present species and also with *Cicuta bulbifera*, a smaller species not uncommon about Boston. The Cicuta virosa of Europe I have never seen.

The species maculata has a fascicled root and oblong leaves with mucronate serratures.

The class and orders are as in the last article.

This plant is so remarkable for the form of its root, that had not the name of *maculata* been confirmed to me by the best authorities, I should have thought that of *fasciculata* to be greatly preferable. This root is composed of a number of large, oblong, fleshy tubers, diverging from the base of the stem, and frequently being found of the size and length of the finger. The root is perennial, and has a strong, penetrating smell and taste. In various parts of the bark it contains distinct cells or cavities, which are filled with a yellowish resinous juice. The plant is from three to six feet high. Its stem is smooth, branched at top, hollow, jointed, striated, and commonly of a purple colour, except when the plant grows in the shade, in which case it is green. The leaves are compound, the largest being about three times pinnate, the uppermost only ternate. Most of the petioles are furnished with long obtuse stipules, which clasp the stem with their base. Leafets oblong acuminate, serrate, the serratures very acute or mucronated. The veins end in the notches, and not at the points of the serratures. The flowers grow in umbels of a middling size, without a general invo-

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